A BRIEF

APOLOGIE PROVING THE POSSESSION OF WILLIAM SOMMERS.

Written by IOHN DORRELL, a faithful Minister of the Gospell: but published without his knowledge, With a Dedicatorie Epistle, discloſing some disordered proceedings against the saide IOHN DORRELL.

Quod in religionem committitur, in omnium fertur iniuriam.

1599.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

To the right Honourable Sr *Thomas Eggerton* Knight, L. Keeper of the great Seale of England, Sr *Iohn Popham* Knight, L. chief Iustice of England: Sir *William Periam* Knight, Lord chief Baron of th'Eschequer, and other the most reuerend Iudges of the Common Lawes of *Englande*.

MY LL. I doe not doubt, but your HH. haue hearde of the possession & dispossession of *VVilliam Summers*, a youth of *Notinghā*, but in what sence these thinges haue bene carried vnto you, by reason of the manifolde varieties of reportes spred abroad, it may be well doubted. Wherefore to the end, that your HH. might take knowledge of the trueth herein, and according to your knowledge by that hie authoritie deriued vnto you from her Sacred Maiestie, for the gouernement of hir subiectes, according to your accustomed iustice and integritie, iustifie the trueth, & discountenance the contrarie: I haue therfore presumed to preferre vnto your LL. this plaine Apologeticall treatise, penned by Maister *Iohn Dorrell*, a principall partie in this matter, bu published altogither without his priuitie or consent therein.

The maine point of the controuersie is, *Whether William Summers was possessed and dispossessed, yea or no.* Whereby there is called into question a matter of fact, a greater then which, can not almost fall out to bee decided among the sonnes of men, namelie touchinge the malice of Satan, and maruellous authoritie of our Lorde IESVS. They that imagine *Summer* was not possessed, but did counterfeit, doe by consequence and indirectlie denie the malice of Satan, & the Soueraintie of our Saviour in this action. But if it fall out contrarie, that hee was possessed and dispossessed in deed, what their sinne

is, and what their reward shall be that blaspheme this great worke of God, I leaue to the secret iudgement of the great day, when they that now iudge, shall be iudged. Onelie, hereby it is euident, that so manie hie or lowe as professe them selues Christians, are greatlie interessed in this matter, that so much concerneth Christ their Maister: and ought therefore informe them selues herein, in asmuch as what soeuer is done against the *Head*, must needes strecht vnto the *Members*.

Now, euerie matter of fact (as this is) most vsuallie is determined by the othes of men: It is therefore to bee respected what hath bene & may be proued by the depositions of credible men, touching this matter.

By cómission from the Archbish of York, directed to 12. especiall * persons neare to *Nottingham*, 17. witnesses were deposed, who directlie proue such admirable things to be done or suffered by the saide *Sumner*, that neither Art nor Nature can compasse the like. Besides these 17. the names of others to the number of 60. or thereabouts, were taken in writing, readie to be deposed of the same and the like. But the Commissioners being wearied with examinations of witnesses, & seeing *Sumner* before their faces violentlie cast into one of his fits, so as he wallowed with his body stretched out at length with an exceeding swiftnes from one ende of the rowme where they sate vnto another, and being pulled by the eares and pricked with pinnes in his legg and hande, of purpose to trie whether he had any feeling or not, yet he remayning senceless, and no bloud following, thé they thought it needlesse to proceed any further

* Iohn Therold Esq. hie Sheriff of Nottingham. Sir Iohn Biron Knight. Iohn Stanop. Robert Markham. Rich. Parkins Esq. Peter Clerk, Maior of Noting. Archd. Walton. Miles Leigh, offic. Ioh. Treton, Iohn Brown. Rob. Evington, and Tho. Bolton, preachers.

At the same time there was seene to three of the Commissioners onely (the rowme being also full of people) a black dogge running about *Sum.* head as he laye before them snuffing at his mouth, which the three Commissioners supposed to haue bene a dogge in deed, and that others had seene him as well as they, which was not so. To this vision accordeth the speech which *Sum.* vttered when the Commissioners willed him to declare vnto them, who had perswaded him to say he did counterfeit, wherevnto (being interrupted as it seemed by the Deuill) he stutteringlie answered, *That the blacke dogge which brought him the bag of golde, did bidde him say so.*

Namely, Miles Leigh, Ioh. Tretō Tho. Bolton.

To second the trueth of the extraordinarie handling of this *Sum.* Maister *Treton*, Maister *Brown*, and Maister *Evving-*

Ivington, commissioners, M. *Hildersham*, M. *More*, and M. *Brinceslay*, all godly preachers, and some of them of great renowme for learning and grauitie, besides manie Gentlemen and others of good credite, volũtarilie haue offred to testifie the trueth in the premisses, but they haue bene reiected & sharplie censured. Petitions haue bene made for copyes of the allegations and depositions against this matter, and for awarding of new Cõmissions to indifferent persons for more full satisfaction: but hitherto none of these could be obteined, no not much as patient audience, or any iudiciall course of proceeding.

On the other side, the bare report of *Som.* that he did counterfeit, and was instructed therevnto by M. *Darrell* (though it bee impossible to be true without the impeachment of the othes of infallible witnesses) is holde for authenticall, & long libells or legendis drawen thervpon, which may be confuted by manifold witnesses, if they might be heard. But as if it were more then high treason to affirme the contrarie to that which one man relying vpon *Som.* relation hath auouched to the L. Archb. of Canterb. and it may be to your LL. & other personages of hie estate to be true, all witnesses without respect of their authoritie in the common wealth, their learning, grauitie, and approued credite, are scornfullie contemned, or insolentlie charged to medle no more in this matter, although it hath pleased hir most excellent Maiestie, by one of the Gentlemen of hir priuie Chamber to giue speciall commaundement, that the cause receiue indifferent hearing. *M. Fulk Greuill.*

If the boyes wordes be of such credite that none may impugn them, why should not his words sealed at other times with othes and execrations be of like value? After his dispossession & repossession, being sometimes come to him selfe, he voluntarily with his own hand writinge (which is yet to be seene) sheweth how it came to passe that he was induced to giue out that he had bene a counterfeit, not vpon any ground of the trueth, but by the threates of Satan and his instruments. His own wordes are these: *Being at* * *Sent Iones, there came vnto me a thing like vnto a Dogg, and said vnto me, And if I would consent vnto him & say that I was a counterfeit, he would giue me a bagge of golde, and if I would not, hee would make me be hanged, or else he would teare mee in peeces: And if I would, I should doe any thing that I would take in hand. And he would come to me like a Mouse, & would*

* *A house of correction in Nottingham.*

Note this.

An asse hee meaneth.

helpe me. And there came to me a thing like a Asse, and said, if I would not say that I was a Counterfeit, hee would cast me into the well, and so went away. And Nicholaies Shepand said, and if I were in a fitt againe, hee would fetch a paire of Knipknapes & a roape, & he would make me confesse, or else hang me. And Iohn Couper and Shepeard said, and if I would saye, that I was a Counterfait, that Maister Mēre and the Aldermene would giue me ten pound, and I should set vp any trade what I would, and I had better say that I was a Counterfeit, & liue like a man, then to haue nothing. For if I should saye, that I was not a Counterfeit, and goe into the Clergies hande, I should haue nothing. Out of which words of his, may be obserued, that this apparition of the Dogge, consorteth with that which the three Commissioners aforesaid did see, and *Som.* did vtter in the audience of diuers: Also that the Deuill and his agents conspire in one complott against this mighty worke of the Lorde Iesus. Lastlie, that it is no maruell though *Som.* delude the vnbeleeuers by some rare actions, seeing the Deuill promised to *helpe him in any thing he would take in hande.* Thus *Som.* is confuted by *Som.* him selfe.

confess. that he was a counterfet

M. Maior

viz. to his M. &c. knowne by the name of Frier. H.

Yet because experience hath proued that this *Som.* is a villanous wretch, and hath discredited him selfe to his friends by sundrie lewd practises of theeuerie and knauerie since the Bish. of L. was possessed of him (whiche yet are concealed as *Secreta Imperij, Matters of State,* and may not be spoken of in any case) therfore for more suretie least these prankes should be disclosed, Commissions haue bene adressed into *Nottingham,* to gather better ground for these surmises. But contrarie to the commendable course of proceedinges vnder your LL. in the courts of Iustice, those Commissions haue bene directed to the maine Aduersaries and informers against the defendant: he not ioyning in commission with them, not hauing knowledge when they were graunted, or when or where they were to be sitt vpon. The witnesses that voluntarilie offred to be deposed for the trueth, were repulsed: all partiall persons that could be thought vpon, were presently called. Such as were vnwillinge to depose, to satisfie their malice, were threatned to be sent to London, and one was put in feare that she should be burned, because shee would not falselie depose against hir knowledge. These and such like exorbitant courses

Commissions sent to Nottingham.

Katherine Wright.

(took

tiedious to be recounted) haue bene vſed: euery tearme and vacation (for the ſpace of a yeare) yeelding ſtraung example of newe greeuance. To omit many particulars, Onely I commend one or two particulars to your LL. conſideration. *Thomas Gray* of *Langley* in the Countie of *Leiceſter*, Eſquier, hauing bin heretofore Maiſter vnto *Som.* was by the Biſh. of Lond. &c. although the Gentleman was bold to tel him, that his dealing ſhould bee made knowen vnto his betters likewiſe. Whereas Maiſter *Darrell* had bene imployed about the diſpoſſeſſing of *Thomas Darling* of *Burton* vpon *Trent*, into who one *Alice Goodridge* had ſent her familiar Spirit called *Minnie* (as hir ſelfe confeſſed, and for the ſame was condemned as a witch by the Queenes Iuſtices, accordinge as in the Treatiſe following is declared) Now to the end there might bee gained ſome ſupplement of proofe to giue colour to the pretended counterfeiting betwene M. *Darrell* and *Som.* the ſaid *Darling* and others haue bin examined vpon their othes by the aforenamed Biſh. & drawen to confeſſe contrarie to the trueth, as them ſelues haue auouched, that *Darling* was a meere counterfeit, and was neither poſſeſſed nor bewitched. Whereby the iudgment giuen by the Queenes Iuſtices againſt the ſaid Alice, for bewitching of *Darling*, is directly *defeated & impeached*, eſpeciallie, if Sentence ſhould be giuen herein. For if *Darling* did counterfeit, then hee was not bewitched: and if he was not bewitched, then was the iudgement and execution againſt *Alice Goodridge* erroniouſly and wrongfullie awarded. Whether this practiſe may ſtande with the ſtatute of *Proviſion and Premunire*, and with the honour which is due to the Temporall Courts, your LL. wiſdomes eã beſt determine. Or if it be not in caſe of *Premunire*, it is an abuſe which your LL. being now acquainted therwithall, will ſee redreſſed.

By this ſhort recapitulation of indirect proceedinges, and that in a matter concerning Chriſt our common Sauiour, contrarie to the Royall commaundement of our moſt gracious and ſoueraine Lady the Queenes Maieſtie, hir lawes and lawfull liberties of hir loyall ſubiects, you ſee what cauſe I haue to exhiblie this ſhort *Apologie* vnto your LL. humblie craning that you would allowe ſome ſpare time to read it ouer: aſſuring my ſelfe, that though it be penned in ſimplicitie without colours and pompe of humane learning, yet it will leaue ſuch

impression in you, as you will not onely incline to the cause, but also by your authoritie, cleare it of scandall.

A cunning practise to intitle the state to priuate abuses.

It wilbe (perhaps) obiected, that by publishing this Treatise, I goe about to raise mutinies among ỹ Queenes subiectes, or to discredite the Ecclesiasticall state, or hir Maiesties commission for ecclesiasticall causes, which neuer came within the intention of my purpose. All mutinies either among the Subiectes or against my deare Soveraine, I detest from my hart to the lowest hell. And if one ecclesiasticall person among the Commissioners be chalenged before your LL. who are his betters, and equall in commission, and haue authoritie to redresse his abuses, what is this to the Ecclesiasticall estate or hie Commission, which ought to bee honoured of all loyall subiectes? Againe, although by the meanes of the foresaid partie (as being vnacquainted and ignorant how to proceed orderlie in matter of Iustice) it hath bene alreadie given out, for this yeare last past, that all is counterfait and *Darrell* a cousener, as if he had bene deliberatelie heard, the witnesses on both sides indifferentlie examined and produced, and the Sentence in fine iudicially and solemnly pronounced, yet in verie trueth the matter dependeth vndecided: Therefore I trust that without offence, we not being admitted to informe your LL. according to the course of ordinarie proceedinges, may somewhat extraordinarilie in dueifull submission, endeuour to arrest iudgement, which being so vnduelie followed, cannot be lawfull.

Vnskilfull men are neuer good Iusticers.

Sentenced before hearing.

Discrete Iusticers chide not before the partie be couicted.

Inauditi tanquam innocentes pereunt.

Thus referring the consideration of these thinges to your HH. I beseeche the Lord almightie, to continue & increase your cares for the seruice of hir Maiestie, the benefite of this Church and common Wealth, to the enlargement of all true honour to your selues with comfort at the time of your death, a blessed memorie after life, and eternall happinesse to your bodies and soules in the life to come for euermore. AMEN.

Enquire Whether this royall law doeth not bind a Bishop

Nullus liber homo capiatur vel imprisonetur, aut dissaisietur de libero tenemento, vel libertatibus, vel liberis consuetudinibus suis, aut vtlagetur aut exuletur, aut aliquo modo destruatur nec super eum ibimus, nec super eum mittemus, nisi per legale iudicium parium suorum, vel per legem terræ. Nulli vendemus, nulli negabimus, aut differemus iustitiam aut rectum.

Magna Carta. Cap. 29.

That *William Sommers* did not counterfeite a possession, but was in deed stranglie and supernaturally afflicted by the operation of Sathan (as we vetely thinke) actuallie possessing him.

IN the Gospell there are diuers signes set downe of Sathan his actuall possessing one, as [a] crymge, [b] gnashinge the teeth, [c] vvallowing, [d] foming, [e] extraordinarie & [f] supernaturall strength, [g] supernaturall knowledge, with sundrie others to the number of 18. but these and euerie of the rest, haue bene seene in *Sommer*, it must needes therfore be, that Sathan possessed him: for vvhere the proper signe, or signes of a thing is, there is also the thing signified thereby: where smoke is, there is fier.

That he was dispossessed, the signes thereof confirme: which are, Crying aloude, renting sore, & lying as dead: these vvere seene and heard at the instant

a Mark. 5. 5. Luke 9. 39.
b Mark 9. 18.
c Mark. 9. 18. 20.
d Mark 9. 18, 20. Luke 9. 39.
e Mat. 17. 25. Mar. 9. 22.
f Mar. 5. 3. 4. Actes 19. 16.
g Mar. 5. 1, 2, 5, 6, 7. Act. 16 16, 17. Mar. 1. 25, 26. & 9. 26 Act. 8. 7.

ſtant of his deliuerance.

Againſt this it is obiected, That he hath onely counterfeited a poſſeſſion, being thereunto ſchooled by me.

To the former part thereof I aunſwere, That ſundrie of theſe thinges, vvhich haue ben done, or rather ſuffred by him, are ſuch, as are impoſſible to be counterfeited, that is to bee done by any arte of man how cũning ſoeuer he be: as the extraordinarie & ſupernaturall Actions or paſſions of his body, ſtrength and knowledge.

The maner of Sam. handling during his poſ.

1 There hath bene ſeene and felt a ſwelling vvhich did run through all the partes of his body: in ſome parte of his body it was of the bignes of an egge, in ſome other bigger or leſſer: being now in the one arme, it vvould be foorthwith in th'other, and ſo of the leggs: it was ſeen in his forehead and other partes of his face, yea in his tongue. Being in his eye or toe, & he vttering theſe wordes, *I will goe out at his eye*, or, *I will goe out at his toe*, it was ſeene preſentlie to vaniſh, or remoue out of that place.

Supernaturall actions or paſſions.

2 When

2 When this Swelling was in his arme or leggs & made any ſtay there, as often it did, then, and during that tyme, the ſame member was as heauy and inflexible as ſo much yron.

3 His body was of that exceedinge waight, that diuers at once could ſcarſly lift him.

4 He fomed aboundantly (like vnto the horſſe) and that for an houre togither, ſo as it roped downe all along on his breſt, and yet euer and anon vvas vviped away.

5 In his fit neither did the temples of his head, nor the pulſes of his handes beate or moue.

6 He lay for the ſpace of an houre as if he had bene dead, cold as yce, his face and handes blacke, no breath being perceyued to come from him.

7 Being oftentymes caſt into the fier, vvith his handes ſometymes in the fire, ſometymes his face, lyeing there alſo a while, He vvas not burnt at all.

8 He did ſpeake diſtinctlie vvith a continuall ſpeach for a quarter of an

houre,

houre, his mouth being ſhut cloſe.

9 He ſpake with his mouth wide open, yea his tongue retorted into his throate, and namely theſe words: *Ego ſum Deus, ego ſum Rex*: that is, *I am God, I am King*. Whiche retortinge was vſuall with him, and ſo done, as no parcell of his tongue was to bee ſeene in his mouth.

10 He was in his fitts without feeling to the iudgment of thoſe which ſawe him. Pinnes being thruſt deepe into ſundrie parts of his body (ſometimes vp to the head,) he ſtirred not at all, neither did any blood iſſue at the places ſo pricked.

Supernaturall ſtrength.

His Strength was often ſuch, that 3. 4. 5. ſometymes 6. men could not rule him. Three men for an houre togither ſweating & labouring much, he ſtrugling with them, was not perceiued to pant, or blow: yea ſcarſelie to take breath: he holding his finger vpright: a man of great ſtregth could not bend it towards the palme of his hande, nor holde and keepe it downe when it was bended.

His

His Knowledge vvas ſuch, that by vertue therof he told of thoſe things vvhich were done and ſpoken diuers myles of him at the ſame inſtant they fel out, and foretold things to come. From hence alſo it was that diuine-like he continued his ſpeach in expounding the Creed for an houre together. Supernaturall knowledge.

Herevnto adde that moſt rare accident, That vnder the Couerlet where he lay, there were certayne thinges ſometime foure or fiue at one inſtant ſtirring & mouing vnder our handes as if they had ben kittlings, whelpes, or ſuch liuing creatures: the couerlet being ſuddenly caſt vp, they vaniſhed away: but thrown downe, they vvere preſently there againe, and this continued about tenne dayes and nights by tymes.

The firſt of theſe hath bin depoſed by 11. the reſte ſome by 4. by 5. and ſome by more or leſſe witneſſes, theſe few excepted where this marke (x) is, which notwithſtanding are as true as the reſt, and to be depoſed.

There

There are beſides theſe diuers others, as the drawing of his mouth awry, ſometimes to th'one eare, ſometimes to th'other: the ſetting of his face againſt his backe: a violent beating of his face & head to the groũd, and the caſting of him ſelf headlong againſt the vvalles, and poſtes of the houſe, ſo as one would haue thought hee would haue ſpoyled or bruiſed him ſelfe greatlie thereby, yet receyued he no hurt at all: the gatheringe of him ſelf of a rouud heape, & bouſing vp a good height being ſo geathered, a ſtraunge voice which was ſenſibly heard to come out of his bodye: his vnnatural ſwelling, his body being twice ſo bigge as naturallie it is, and his ſtrange wallowing or ſwift rowling of him ſelfe, with his body ſtretched out to his full length.

If theſe things, moſt ſtraunge and admirable, can bee done by any humaine ſkill, I denie not but that hee may be a counterfeite: but vntill that ſhall appeare, I muſt needs ſubſcribe them to ſome ſupernatural power, & that

that is the Deuill: for ſome cauſe of theſe rare effects muſt be had, & that muſt be either naturall or ſupernaturall, but a naturall cauſe hereof can not be giuen, of neceſſitie therefore there muſt bee ſome ſupernaturall, which was an euill ſpirit poſſeſſing him, for the reaſon aforeſaid.

Againſt theſe impoſſibilities much is ſaide, but let the ſame be well examined by the premiſſes as a rule, and it will manifeſt the ſame maketh nothing againſt vs.

But the mayne thing that is obiected for the proofe of his diſſembling is his owne confeſſion.

Obiection, That *Som.* confeſſeth hee did counterfeit.

Thereto I anſwere, that no man cõfeſſing or reporting any impoſſibilitie, of him ſelf is to be credited, whiche *Sommers* doeth in this report of him ſelfe. If *Som.* ſhould ſaye that he (by good footemanſhip) hath gone on foote in one day from *Barwick* to *Douer*, none would beleue him: why then doe any credit him in this his confeſſion? for it is no more poſſible for him to goe that iourney in that time,

Anſwere.

time, then by his owne will & powe
to doe those things which are abou
specified, which he in saying he hath
coũterfeited affirmeth he hath done.
If this be a certayne trueth, that these
thinges hee could not possibly doe,
which all men may graunt, then for-
asmuch as 20. witnesses or therabout,
haue vpon their oathes ascribed the
same vnto him, or some other power
in, or by him, it must necessarilie and
inevitablie followe, that if they haue
sworne truely, and the hundred saye
truly which daylie beare witnes ther-
to, and are readie to depose the same,
if they might be called, then he is a
lyar in saying *he counterfeited*: Chuse
nowe whether you will beleeue *W.*
Som. or his other companie. If he say
truelie, they are perjured: for vppon
their oathes they haue avouched
these things by him, which can not
possibly be coũterfeited. And if they
sweare truely, he lyeth in affirminge
he dissembled. And here we
member that the questiõ is not whe
ther *Som.* did (or suffered) the things
about

aboue ſpecified, as vvhether he had ſuch a variable ſwelling, running vp and downe along his body, and ſo of the reſt. For that ſuch thinges vvere ſeene in him, is alreadie depoſed by many: that therfore is out of all queſtion, & moſt true, except they be periured, which is moſt vncharitable to conceiue, and daungerous to affirme, but the ſtate of our controuerſie or queſtion is vvhether *Som.* himſelf by ſome ſleight or cunninge of his, did thē: or (that being impoſſible) ſome other power in or by him: they therfore that goe from this point, ſpeake nothing to the matter or againſt it.

Secondlie, the meanes wherby this cōfeſſion was cōpaſſed, are to be conſidered of: Firſt thorough the malice of ſome, *Som.* was charged (but moſt vniuſtly) to haue bewitched one *Sterland* to death, wherevpon he was called before the Maior & Aldermen of *Notingham*, by thē for a time impriſoned, ſo as his father in lawe entered bond for his appearāce at the Aſſiſes.

What moued Sō. to ſay that he did counterfeit a poſſeſſion.

2 To this ende Sathan viſibly appea-

ring vnto him (as his vsuall maner is to those he possesseth) sometime promised him golde, and that he would be at hand to do those things for him hee had done howsoeuer hee would haue him, if he would say he had coũterfeited: at other times threatned to pul him in pieces if he would not say so. 3. For the obteyning therof *Cowper* and *Shepherd* (two most lewd and euil disposed persons) threatned him: the one to whippe him, the other to pinch him with a paire of pincers, as appeareth both by *Som.* cõfession and their own vpõ their oathes before 12 Commissioners. These baytes thus layd by Satan & wicked men, caught him, for presently after & not before, he made the cursed cõfession of coũterfeiting: & no maruell, these things well considered, though he vsed his tongue against the trueth and God himselfe and the great worke which he had wrought for him, seeing that thereby he should not only escape (as he no doubt thought) that which Sathan threatned, and haue that he promised

miſed, which hee hath hitherto performed: but alſo to avoid the preſent puniſhment. his keepers threatned to inflict vpon him, &, vvhich was moſt of all, thereby he ſhould ſaue his life: for he in ſaying hee had diſſembled, vvas thereby freed from all ſuſpition (or rather that malicious & falſe accuſation) of witchcraft, and thervpon made not ſo much as any appearance before the Iudge of Aſſiſe: Whereas vndoubtedly if hee had ſtoode to the trueth, and neuer acknowledged any coũterfeiting, he had bene arraigned and ſore layd at for his life. Now the prouerbe is, *life is ſweet*, and who (almoſt) will not make a lye for the ſauing of his life? If then any aſke the queſtion why he ſhould ſay he counterfeited, if it were not ſo: he hath his aunſwere heere, for hereby wee may plainlie ſee, that there vvas in carnall reaſon much to lead him to that confeſſion, though it was altogither againſt the trueth.

3. As before ſo after he had made this wretched confeſſion, and ſtoode

in it for the ſpace of a moneth, he acknowledged that hee neuer counterfeited, yea in wretched maner he hath betaken him ſelfe body and ſoule to the Deuill, if euer he diſſembled, and this he did for x. dayes, during which time the worke of God was manifeſt, and that by the cõfeſſion of the greateſt adverſarie. Nowe ſeeing he hath ſaid both wayes, and varied ſo often, euen foure times. For firſt he ſaid and proteſted, that he did not coũterfeit, thẽ, that he did diſſemble, after again that he did not, and laſtlie, he ſaith & faceth it out, that he did counterfeit: Why ſhould we rather beleue him affirming then denying, ſeeing (I ſay) he hath ſaide both wayes and alike times of both: yea vvho that is vviſe will giue credit to ſuch a doũble and falſe tongue? Conſidering alſo hovve notoriouſlie wicked he is: For take him at the beſt, and as him ſelf and others would faine haue you: He is an infamous deceauer, hauing faigned to be poſſeſt with a Deuill, and thereby (if it were ſo) prophaned the holy

word

vvorde of God, and the holy exerciſe of prayer and faſting: beſides he is as notorious a lyar as euer was heard or read of, and by conſequent the child of the Deuill, yea not onely a lyar but a forſworn wretch, for he hath ſworn both wayes: laſtlie, he is an horrible blaſphemer, for hee hath ſaide that there is no God, and ſometimes theſe wordes, *I am God*, as is depoſed. Theſe things cõſidered, doe not they greatlie forget themſelues which wil haue *Will. Som.* a counterfeiter, and my ſelf to haue taught him, becauſe *Will. So.* ſaith ſo? Is it not a ſtraũge thing that vvhatſoeuer this graceles boy ſaith ſhalbe held for trueth: If he ſaye hee hath Counterfeited, it muſt bee ſo, though God and men affirme the cõtrarie, and reaſon it ſelfe ſay, it is not poſſible ſo to be. When he for pretẽce hereof alleadgeth many falſe, fooliſh, and abſurd things, not once worthie the hearing or aunſwering, they are receiued for true & invincible arguments therof. If he ſay, *Io. Dorrell* taught him, and for ſhew thereof al-

leadge many thinges as falſe as falſe can be, which *Io. Dorrell* offereth, and is as vvell able to proue them falſe, as to proue it true that euer hee was in the *Gatehouſe*, yet that muſt needs be true. In a vvord, if *Som.* and he alone ſay many thinges for his diſſembling a poſſeſſion, and my ſchooling him, though againſt him, & that he ſaith, Many, euen hundreds affirme the cõtrarie, & aboue 20. haue ſworne that which proueth the ſame, and among thoſe ſome were learned & reverend men, of great wiſdome and godlines: yet behold *Will. Som.* is beleeued before them all, What marvaile is it thẽ though he be credited and his word, & oath receiued before myne, thogh I be a Miniſter of Chriſt Ieſus, & ſuch (by the grace of God) as they vvhich ſeeking advantage againſt me, can finde none: yet in a worde you ſhall heare what I ſay in myne ovvne defence.

That Io. Dor. did not teach Som. to counterfeit.

Firſt, beſides that vpon myne oath I haue denyed that I taught him, which indeed ſhould ſuffice both the law

law of God, and that lavv by which I am to be iudged (except there were some further proofe then *Som.* accusation, as there is not) I affirme and reason for my selfe thus: That forasmuch as the aforesaid straunge accidents which were seene in him, cannot possiblie bee taught or learned by any, It is impossible therefore that I should haue instructed him therin. 2. He was so straungly handled a moneth before I set eye on him, how thé is it possible that he should haue bin taught by me? For wheras it is alleadged against me, that for 4. yeares or more he & I had our secret meetings (let that be proued that to my knowledge I euer sawe him before the fift of November 1597. which was but 2. dayes before his dispossession) and I refuse no punishments and before I did see him, I was importuned thereunto by diuers letters, whereof one came from the Maior. I am able also to prove by good witnes that I vvas not desired thither by any direct or indirect meanes from my selfe: nowe

let euerie one iudge, whither it is not likely that I would not haue winded my ſelfe into the action by ſome deuiſe or other, if I had had any ſuch abomination in hand as is layde to my charge. Moreouer, *Som.* ſaieth, that when he, to this ſaid end, repayred to me (I meane, to be taught) hee came frō one Mr *Grayes* of *Langly* (with whō as he ſaith he then dwelt) to *Aſhby de la zouche*, where I then dwelt, as hee affirmeth, & in a parke there we met, and this our meeting began about 4. yeares paſt. Now the trueth is that he was gone 2. or 3. yeres frō Mr. *Grayes*, before I came to dwell at *Aſhby*, & 5. yeres before our prētended meeting, for it is ix. yeares or therabouts, ſince he went frō M. *Grayes*, and but 6. yeres ſince I went to *Aſhby*. And during my aboade at *Aſhby*, he neuer dwelled in that coūtrie wherein *Aſhby* ſtandeth, nor neerer it, then *Notingbā* is, which is 14. miles diſtant, and frō whence he himſelf doth not ſay y^t euer he came to me: Thus then the caſe ſtādeth, the lying youth having charged me with in-

instructing him, and beeing charged therupon of neceſſitie where & when we met to that end, and not knowing what place to name, at length he bethought him of his dwellinge ſometimes with the aforeſaid gentlemã, & mine at *Aſhby*: & having none other he named the aforeſaid place, becauſe then as he thought, we dwelt within 5. miles one of another, but therin he was deceiued, as is alredy by oth proued: this his accuſatiõ therfore is manifeſtly falſe. But admit he had dwelt with Mr *Gray* when I dwelt at *Aſhby*, doth that ſo greatly cõfirme our meeting in the parke, and my inſtructing him there: & yet beſides his bare oth (who is ſuch as wee heare, and hath ſworne the cõtrarie) there is nothing to ſtrengthen his accuſation but this, yea, this is all that is layde to my chardge, ſaue that he addeth that vpõ the 6 and 7. of November 97. at *Nottingham* I acted his trickes vnto him, which I haue offred (and ſtill doe) to diſproue by a multitude of witneſſes. And is it not to bee vvondred at, that ſuch an open and notorious lyar,

as

as this boy is, should prevaile so long and so farre against a Preacher of the Gospell, by so palpable a lye and false accusation as this is. Furthermore *So.* his owne tale herein doeth so varie, that his accusatiō can deserve no credite at all, for to some hee reported that he beeing at *Nottingham*, vexed with a strange collike, through much going into the water, I should come to him thither from *Ashby*, and perswade him to say that hee was possessed, & that so we first became acquainted. To others he said, that the first time that he became acquainted with mee, was when I was with *Katherine Wright* in *Darbishire*, which hee was about 12. yeares past, at which time he was some 8. yeres old, vnfit as any mā would thinke, to communicate such a matter vnto. Furthermore he told the Bishop of London (as it may appeare by one of the articles) that our first meeting & acquaintance was in the streetes at *Ashby*, I talking with 2. strangers, and that about *Katherine Wright* forsooth, who departing vpō his

Som. varieth in his testimonie.

his comming, we two (as he saieth) vvent into the fieldes togither. And now he saieth, that our first acquaintance was in an alehouse at *Ashby*, among other boyes: Which allegacions as they seuetallie confute one another, so I am wel able (helped by circumstances) to confute thē all: wherin if I faile, yea further if I make not myne innocencie and righteousnesse heerein manifest as the day light at midday, so that I may be hearde and haue leave to produce my proofes, as I trust in time I shall, then let me bee held guiltie, & dealt with accordinglie. In the meane season I vvill vse 2. reasons more in the defence both of the vvork of God, and my selfe. If *So:* counterfeited, & was instructed thervnto by me, thē in all reason the same is true of *Th. Darling* of *Burton*, & of those 7. in *Lancashire*, for they were al handled alike, & I dealt with them all, and they vvere all helped by the same meanes, that is, prayer & fasting but that is not so, as God and they wil beare me vvitnes: yea, it is a thing abhor-

Mai. Dorrell known to be a man that hateth no alehouses.

Seauen dispossessed in Lanc. by M. Dorrels ministerie.

horring frō cōmon ſenſe, ſo to conceyue of thē; *Som.* therefore hath not counterfeited, nor I inſtructed him.

That Th. Darling was no counterfeit.

Againſt thoſe 7. in *Lācaſhire* nothing is obiected, but of *Darling* it is ſaide that he alſo coūterfeited. I anſwere, that that cā not poſſibly be: for in the booke which is printed concerning him, it is reported that hee (being a boy of 13. yeares of age) was of that ſtrength that 2. ſtrong men could not hold him downe, or rule him. And in another place, that 3. men could ſcarſlie doe it, which is impoſſible to coūterfeit, for no man can add any thing to his ſtrength by coūterfeiting. 2. It is ſaid here in ſundrie places, that his armes & ſhoulder bones were in manie of his fitts thruſt out of ioint, and indeed this hath bene ſeene and felte manya tyme, and by manie who are readie to depoſe it. Nowe beſides the painfulnes, how is it poſſible that he ſhould thruſt his bones out of their iointes, and in againe, and preſentlie after vſe his armes all one, as if no ſuch thinge had bene done, I can not con-

conceyue nor thinkeanie other. 3. It is there reported, in his traunces hee vttered certaine ſpeeches there mencioned, with his mouth wide open, whiche is impoſſible to be donne by man. Moreouer, the Witch *Alice Goodridge* by name, ſundry times confeſſed, that ſhe miſtaking *Tho. Darling* for one *Sherrats* boy, ſent her familiar or ſpirit in forme of a dogge (partie coloured, redd and white) called *Mynny*, to torment him in his bodie, and that ſhe had cauſed his vexation: & further that at hir ſending of him, ſhe ſtreyned all hir body, & vomited, bidding hir *Minny* to goe and doe ſo to the boy, who returning, ſaide, hee had done ſo. Now the trueth is, that beſides the child was moſt fearfullie tormented in and thorough all the partes of his body, he was much troubled with vomiting, & making ſhew thereof. It is alſo to be remembred, that ſhee named the tyme, place, occaſion, and the vvordes ſhee vſed, when ſhee ſent the Deuil to vexe and torment him in his body, as appeareth

Tho. Darling bewitched.

reth pag. 26. Herevpō this *Alice Goodridge* vvas cōmitted to *Derby* gaole, indited, arraigned, by the Iurie foūd guiltie thereof, and by the Iudge ſentence giuen of hir to imprisonment: vvhere ſhortly after ſhee died. Theſe things conſidered to ſay that *Darling* coūterfeited, is not only to denie the trueth of the booke printed, vvhich (for the ſubſtance of it) hath ben offred to be confirmed by the oathes of a great many, as is ſtill, if by authoritie they ſhalbe therevnto called, but to cōdemne alſo beſides the Iurie, the Iudge, if not of iniuſtice, yet of ſimplicitie. Beſides, if the boy conterfeited, vvhat an intollerable abuſing of Iudge, Iuſtices of peace, and Iurie is there? And vvhy is not that counterfeiting boulted out by ſome of the Wor in that Countie, and the parties therin offending puniſhed according to their deſertes? But it may be there is none ſo wiſe in that coaſt. Let them ſend then to *Nottingham*, and craue helpe frō ſome there: thay that foūd out *Somer* his diſſimulation, can (no doubt)

Verdictes and iudgements at common lawe impeached.

Inquire whether the Biſh. of L. be not in a Premunire, 27. E. cap. 1.

doubt) doe asmuch for *Darling* too; if they vvould but take the paines to make diligent search and inquiry into it. My second reason is this: If *Som.* be a coũterfeit, & I haue taught him, then vndoubtedly *Marie Cooper* his sister is such, and hath also confederated with vs herein, for she cannot onlie doe some of his tricks (as they call them) but besides, for a time began hir fittes whē he ended his: he in like sort following her, having their fitts by course, and this they did, although they were in seuerall roomes, as I am able, & offer now to proue by a multitude of witnesses. But hereof as she will cleare me, so it hath not hitherto bin said, that shee hath any hande in this counterfeit accusation, why then doe any charge that vpon me? For she in all reason is (at least) as surely confederate with him as I, or any private christian: And therefore also I vndertooke not the meanes for *So.* his dispossession, till I had three other Preachers to ioyne with me: yea I am perswaded that the faithfull prayers of Marie Cooper

the

the parties friends may prevaile with God in this cafe: though no Preacher be preſent, as in the diſpoſſeſſion of *Thom. Darling* it was evident. Onely this I holde, that one being poſſeſſed, prayer & faſting is to bee vſed for the caſting out of Sathan, as a meanes appointed of God to that end. And this I doubt not, but I am able to prove by the holy ſcriptures, & further to confirme by the teſtimonies of auncient and late Writers, and by the practiſe of the Church in all ages, & the good ſucceſſe thereof.

Caſting out of Deuils no miracle.

And whereas many cõceyue of this matter as a Miracle, and therevppon ſpeake hardlie of it, becauſe miracles are ceaſed, they are therein (by their patiẽce) as I take it, greatlie deceiued. To caſt out Deuills by a worde, ſo as one no ſooner commandeth the ſpirit to go out, but forthwith he departeth, as Chriſt and his Apoſtles did, is not onely a miracle, but of them the greateſt: but by the meanes of prayer and faſting to drive out Sathan, or rather to intreat Chriſt (to whom all pow-

power is giuen in heauen & in earth) to cast Sathan forth is no miracle, because of the said meanes, for whatsoeuer is brought to passe by meanes, is no miracle, because of the saide meanes, be it neuer so wonderfull, as might bee shewed (but for brevities sake) in a thousand instances. This is *mirandum, non miraculum*, that is a wonderfull worke, but not a wonder. 2. When Satan is cast out, the Church (or anie member of it) worketh no miracle, for that shee cannot in the vsing of the meanes, be assured to prevaile. For although the assurance is, or may be great in this case, yet wvee can not be sure that the partie shalbe deliuered, the meanes being vsed, because GOD is at libertie to blesse the meanes he hath appointed to this, or that end, and to withhold & to keepe backe his blessing from it: and in this latter case, what will anie meanes profite or prevaile. As touching my opinions herein, and matter of learning, I submit my selfe to the iudgement of the learned, as one most rea-

die to giue eare vnto them, if they shall informe me better. And as concerning the matters of fact, and other thinges reported by mee, If I proove them not true in whole and in parte, Let *Som.* be helde for a Counterfeit, and my selfe his instructor, and both of vs condingely punished.

Is it not the maner of the Romanes for fauour to deliuer any man to death, before that he which is accused haue the accusers before him, & haue place to defend himself, concerning the crime.

Act.25.16.

A brief of the depositions taken at *Notingham*, the 20. of March 1597. by vertue of a commission from the Archb. of York and others hir Maiesties hie Commissioners, before 12. Commissioners of worship, proving that *William Somers* of *Nottingham*, of th'age of 20. yeres, was possessed by Sathan, and did not counterfeit as some pretend.

***

1 THat there seemed to runne along his legg, and thence into his toe, bellie, throat, tongue, cheeke, eie, and other partes, a lūpe sometimes bigger or lesser then an egge beeing soft. *Deposed by*

Thom. Hayes, art. 2.
Rob. Aldridge, art. 2
Willi Hinde, art. 3.
Tho. Westfield, art. 4
Ioane Pie, artic. 6.
Willi. Lāgford, art. 9
Iohn Strelley, art. 12
Richard Mee, art. 13
Iohn Pare, artic. 15.
Iohn Clerk, artic. 16
Willi Hunt, art. 17.

2 The lumpe beeing in his legg, it was heauie, and inflexible like yron. *Depos. by*

Iohn Strelley, art. 12
Ioane Pie, artic. 6.
Eliz Milward, art. 14
Iohn Clerk, artic. 16

3 He had such extraordinarie strēgth, that sometimes 3. 4. 5. 6. or moe were scarse able to rule him. *Deposed by*

Rob. Aldridg, art. 2.
Ioane Pie, artic. 6.
Iohn Wood, art. 11
Iohn Strelley, art. 12
Richard Mee, art. 13
Willi. Lāgford, art. 9

4 When 4. or 5. ſtrugled with him, ſo as they were wearied, he did not ſweat, pante, or chãge colour. *Depoſed by*

- William Langforde, artic. 9.
- Richard Mee, art. 13
- John Wood, art. 11.

5 He walowed, gnaſhed with his teeth, ſtared with his eies, & fomed at his mouth exceſſiuelie, hauing neither eate nor dunke all the day before, as *Langford* depoſ.

- Robert Aldridge, articu. 2.
- Willi. Aldred, art. 5.
- Iohn Strelley, art. 12
- Richard Mee, art. 13.
- William Langforde, artic. 19.

6 Ther ſeemed to runne vnder the couerlet where hee lay, as it were kittlinges, to the number of foure or fiue *Depoſed by*

- Robert Aldridge, artic. 4.
- Ioane Pie, artic. 6.
- Thom. Gray, art 10

7 His face and mouth fearfullie diſtorted, one lipp toward one eare, and another toward th'other, *depoſed by*

- William Aldred, artic. 5.
- Ioane Pie, artic. 6.
- Richard Mee, art. 13

8 His face turned directlie backward, not moving his body at all, *Depoſed by*

- Richard Mee, art. 13
- Ioane Pie, artic. 8.

9 His

9 His necke doubled vnder him, *Depoſed by* { Richard Mee, art. 13

10 His bodye doubled, his head betweene his legges, ſuddely plucked round like a round browne loafe: hee was caſt vp like a ball from the bed 3. or 4. tymes togither, half a yard hie, *depo. by* { Ioane Pie, artic. 6.

11 Beeing caſt into the fire, where he lay ſometimes againſt the walls & irō barrs of the chimney with great violence, he receiued no appearance of hurt at all, *de. by* { Ioane Pie, artic. 6. / Iohn Strelley, art. 12 / Richard Mee, art. 13

12 His body ſemed to be extended to the height of the taleſt man, whē once he endeuoured to hang himſelf, *Depoſed by* { Ioane Pie, artic. 6.

13 That hee tolde of diuers things done in his abſence, without notice giuē by any perſon, *Depoſed by* { Elizabeth Milward, artic. 13 / Ioane Pie, artic. 6.

14 Strange ſpeeches vttered by him in his fits, in a ſtrang voice, as, that hee was his, that he was God, Chriſt, & a King: that he made baptiſme: I wil vſe *W. So.* tonge and members for 3. dayes: *Ego ſum Rex, ego ſum Deus:* That there was no God, that he was King and Prince of darkenes. And in ſaying the Lordes prayer, could not ſay, leade vs not into temptation, but lead vs into temptation. Alſo before Maiſter *Dorrell* had ſeene him, he ſaid, *Dorrel* comes, *Dorrell* comes, he will haue me out, but I will come againe, for *Notingham* & *Lenton* are iolly townes for mee: *Depoſed by*

Robert Aldred, art. 2.
Richard Newton, artic. 7.
Richard Mee, art. 18
Elizabeth Milward, artic. 14.

15 Being recouered out of his fitts, he knew not what he had ſaide or done: *Depoſed by*

Iohn Wood, art. 11.
Ioane Pie, artic. 6.

In

16 In his fitts ſtrange ſmelles were in the place where hee lay, ſometymes like brimſtone, ſomtimes very ſweet: *Depoſed by*

Ioane Pie, art. 6.
Richard Mee, art. 13

17 A ſtraung knocking perceiued about his bed, in his fitts: both his feet & hands beeing helde vnmoveable: *Depoſed by*

Robert Aldred, art. 8
Ioane Pie, artic 6.
Elizabeth Milward, artic. 14.
Iohn Pare, artic. 15.

18 Hee did crie hideouſlie, ſometimes like a bull, bear, ſwine, and in a ſmall voyce vnpoſſible to be coũtetfeited: *Depoſed by*

William Langford, artic. 9.
Robert Aldridg, artic. 2.
Richard Mee, art. 13

19 His legge would be crooked with his falles, and remaine vnflexible: *Depo. by*

Richard Mee, artic. 13.
Thomas Haies, artic. 4.

20 He ſpake in a continued ſpeeche, his mouth beeing wide open, his tõgue drawn into his throat, neither his lipps nor chaps moouinge: *Depoſed by*

Richard Newton, artic. 7.
Henry Nuſſey, art. 8.
Ioane Pie, art. 6.
Iohn Sutly, art. 12.

He

21 He spake a quarter of an houre, his mouth beeing shut close: Deposed by { William Hunt, artic. 17.

22 In his fittes his pulses and temples did not beat: he lay for dead, cold as Ice: Deposed by { William Langford, artic. 9. [illegible] Millward, artic. 14.

23 His eye was black, & chaūged colour in his fitts: Deposed by { William Hinde, ar. 8 Thomas Westfield, artic. 4. Richard Mee, art 13.

Folio 9. Lin 18.
Liberè respondeo, add sus-

MVSEVM BRITANNICVM